

By: Parker

S.B. No. 1507

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to advanced air mobility.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 21.073 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.073. ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY. (a) In this section:

(1) "Advanced air mobility" means an air transportation system primarily using electric aircraft, including electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft and electric conventional takeoff and landing aircraft, with a gross takeoff weight of 300 pounds or more to transport passengers or cargo or provide services in an urban or regional setting.

(2) "Powered lift aircraft" means an aircraft capable of vertical takeoff, vertical landing, and low-speed flight that depends principally on:

(A) engine-driven lift devices or engine thrust for lift during vertical takeoff or vertical landing; and

(B) nonrotating airfoil for lift during horizontal flight.

(3) "Vertiport" means an area of land, an area of water, or a structure, including associated buildings and facilities, that is used or intended to be used for landing or takeoff of powered lift aircraft.

(b) A provision of this section applicable to powered lift

1 aircraft or electric aircraft, including electric vertical takeoff
2 and landing aircraft and electric conventional takeoff and landing
3 aircraft, applies only to an aircraft that:

4 (1) has a gross takeoff weight of 300 pounds or more;
5 and

6 (2) is capable of transporting passengers or cargo.

7 (c) The department shall:

8 (1) establish an office within the aviation division
9 of the department to provide technical support for advanced air
10 mobility infrastructure at airports in this state, with a
11 particular focus on electric aircraft and autonomous aircraft;

12 (2) develop a statewide strategic plan for advanced
13 air mobility in collaboration with industry and community
14 representatives;

15 (3) identify methods to encourage the use of
16 consensus-based vertiport standards and support uniform planning
17 and zoning enabling provisions relating to powered lift aircraft,
18 autonomous aircraft, electric aviation, and other advances in
19 aviation technology across the state;

20 (4) in conjunction with the Public Utility Commission
21 of Texas and an independent organization certified under Section
22 39.151, Utilities Code, estimate the required electric generation
23 and transmission capacity for the different implementation phases
24 of advanced air mobility in this state and evaluate the use of other
25 fuel sources with respect to advanced air mobility;

26 (5) develop and provide to local governments, regional
27 councils of government, and other appropriate governmental

1 entities a guidebook and technical resources to support uniform
2 planning and zoning provisions across this state relating to
3 powered lift aircraft, electric aircraft and aviation, and other
4 advances in aviation technology;

5 (6) in collaboration with the office of the governor,
6 the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Higher Education
7 Coordinating Board, develop and lead a statewide education campaign
8 for local and regional public officials on the benefits of electric
9 powered lift aircraft and advancements in aviation technology;

10 (7) develop and publish materials on the department's
11 Internet website to inform public officials, members of the public,
12 the aviation community, and recreational users of unmanned aircraft
13 of advanced air mobility and developments in that technology; and

14 (8) establish and administer a program under which the
15 department provides matching funds on behalf of public institutions
16 of higher education in this state in order to receive federal grants
17 relating to research and development of advanced air mobility in
18 this state.

19 (d) The department, the office of the governor, the Texas
20 Education Agency, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
21 shall jointly collaborate with school districts, institutions of
22 higher education, and interested public and private stakeholders on
23 educational opportunities relating to advanced air mobility
24 technology.

25 (e) The statewide strategic plan developed under Subsection
26 (c)(2) must:

27 (1) include short-term, medium-term, and long-term

1 goals for advanced air mobility in this state and the associated
2 economic impact of achieving those goals; and

3 (2) comprehensively address all aspects of advanced
4 air mobility in this state, including:

5 (A) advanced air mobility use cases;

6 (B) existing infrastructure and necessary
7 infrastructure upgrades, including upgrades enabling autonomous
8 operations;

9 (C) regulatory best practices; and

10 (D) updates to the Texas Airport System Plan to
11 include vertiports, electric aircraft charging, and the
12 infrastructure needs of other advances in aviation technology as
13 appropriate.

14 (f) The commission shall adopt rules to implement the
15 program established under Subsection (c)(8). The rules must
16 specify a minimum percentage of additional matching funds that must
17 be provided by the advanced air mobility industry or other persons
18 as a condition of receiving matching funds from the department
19 under the program.

20 (g) A political subdivision of this state may not enact,
21 adopt, or enforce a rule, ordinance, order, resolution, or other
22 regulation relating to advanced air mobility, the ownership of an
23 advanced air mobility aircraft, or the aerial operation of an
24 advanced air mobility aircraft unless:

25 (1) the political subdivision is an airport operator;
26 and

27 (2) the regulation governs:

1 (A) the operation of an advanced air mobility
2 aircraft within the geographic boundaries of the airport for which
3 the political subdivision is the airport operator; or

4 (B) the takeoff or landing of an advanced air
5 mobility aircraft at an airport described by Paragraph (A).

6 SECTION 2. Section [21.072](#), Transportation Code, is
7 repealed.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.